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IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND  
1928-29

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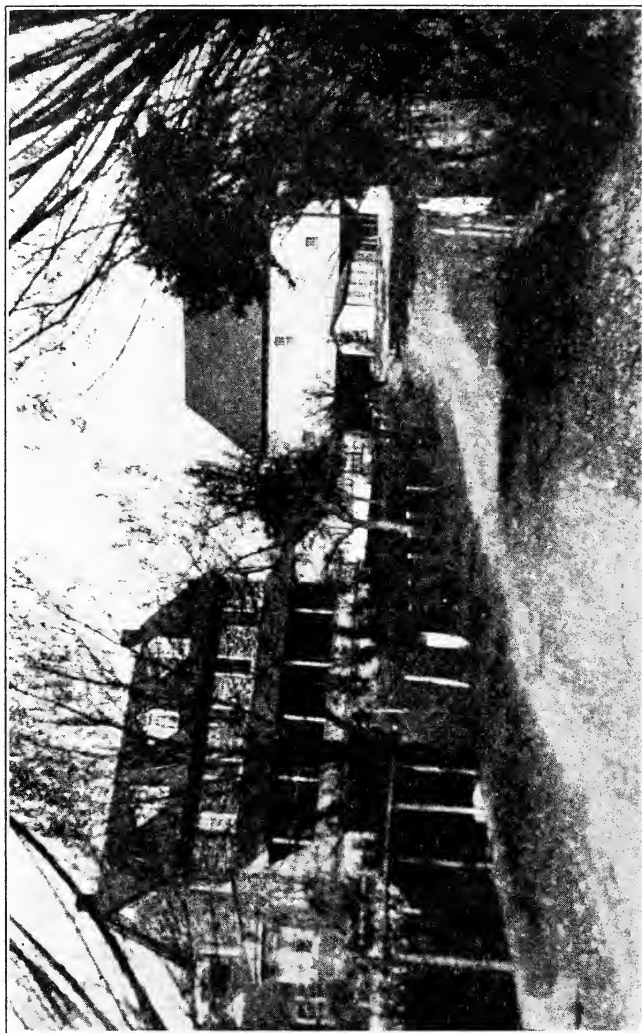
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*Stone Farmhouse Built in 1809 and Typical Frame Barn of Late Date on What Was in the 1700's Heinrich Rosenberger's Farm, in What Is Now Montgomery County*

# IN PENNSYLVANIA- GERMAN LAND

1928-29

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By  
JESSE LEONARD ROSENBERGER

Author of *The Pennsylvania Germans,  
Through Three Centuries, Rochester and Colgate,  
Rochester: The Making of a University*, etc.

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## PREFACE

11/24/69  
**T**HIS somewhat small, compact volume owes its origin to a quest which I instituted in 1928 primarily to get genealogical data relative to Matthias Heim (1769-1838), of Freeburg, Pennsylvania, as briefly recounted in the last chapter. At the same time, and additionally, I obtained all the information of interest and importance that I conveniently could about what I have designated "Pennsylvania-German Land"; about its people, some of its old and historic buildings, its churches and schools, farming and county fairs, with some material for comparisons. The sixty-five illustrations are reproductions of selections from photographs which I took to supplement my observations, and I imagine that they will constitute a goodly portion of the interest and value of the book.

It may also be well to state further that this first edition, printed on permanent all-rag paper, is limited to five hundred copies.

JESSE LEONARD ROSENBERGER

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
May, 1929



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*Idyllic Scene at Schwenkville, Montgomery County*

## I. LAND AND PEOPLE

WHAT may very appropriately be called "Pennsylvania-German Land" is interesting in many respects, and most of all for its people, who have given it its chief distinction. It is in the southeastern part of the state of Pennsylvania but has no distinct boundary. It lies mainly in Lancaster, York, Berks, and Montgomery counties and in some portions of Bucks and several other counties, without completely covering any county. It is made up principally of an indefinite number of large and small areas of agricultural land which were settled either entirely or almost so by the Germans, with here and there some

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

other people of more or less kindred spirit and purpose with them, such as Hollanders, Swiss, and Moravians, the most of whose descendants remaining in those localities have been commonly classed as "Pennsylvania Germans," or called "Pennsylvania Dutch."

Nearly all the Germans and these others who in places settled fraternally by their side were farmers, who chose for their settlements heavily wooded and somewhat rough or hilly land not then particularly desired by anyone else on account of the hard labor which would be required to clear it. However, it was land which the Germans foresaw would, when once brought under cultivation, produce good crops. Then, too, the land was such that, to a great extent, it was possible to arrange farms so that eventually each would have what acreage was wanted for tillage, some meadow and pasture land, and possibly a brook or a spring on the farm. There were also spots best to be left for wanted wood lots after the remainder of the land should be cleared of timber.

The original German settlers who came from one vicinity, or from vicinities very much alike; were actuated by the same or similar motives; had much the same habits and customs; spoke a common language or under-

## LAND AND PEOPLE

standable variations of it; went into a forest wilderness inhabited by Indians and infested with wild beasts; naturally made their new homes as near to one another as was practicable, or in homogeneous settlements. This was particularly true not only of those who came from the same community or section but also

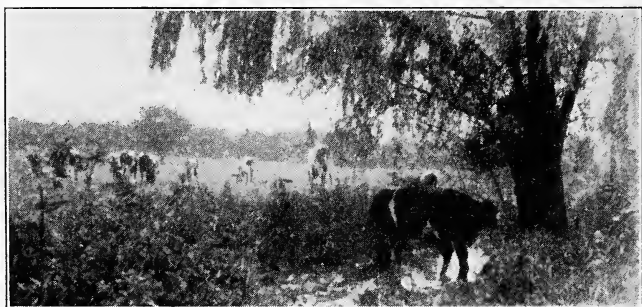


*View Showing a Little of Freeburg, of Pleasant Valley, and of  
St. Peter's Church Spire; in Snyder County*

of those who belonged to the same religious sect or denomination, such as the Old Mennonites, the Amish Mennonites, the Lutherans, and the German Reformed. It all helped, with a certain amount of blending as time passed, to make the Pennsylvania-German settlements what they were and became, or so that, in the aggregate, they may be counted as one, although there are some differences in them.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Then, being left pretty much to themselves, and keeping to themselves, the striking general characteristics which they developed have been notably perpetuated, with some modifications, down to the present time, one great feature thus developed and preserved being the Pennsylvania-German, or, as it is very often called, the "Pennsylvania Dutch," language or



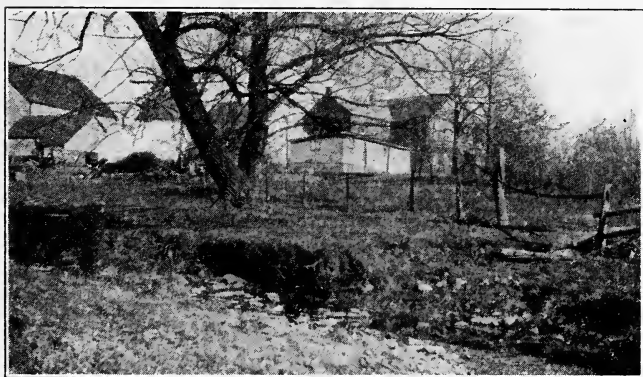
*A Corner of What Was Once Matthias Heim's Farm at Freeburg*

dialect, which has been used almost universally among them and has been one of their strongest continuing ties.

The appearance of the land is, of course, very different now from what it was when the settlements were made. As now seen, the landscape is, as a rule, it seems to me, a pleasing one, sometimes picturesque, although very little attempt has ever intentionally been made

## LAND AND PEOPLE

for its beautification. At the present time, what a person usually sees is farm adjoining farm, each divided into several fields distinguished by the varying colors and features of different crops, such as those of wheat, corn, grass, and so on, perhaps an orchard, and almost certainly either a grove or a scattering



*Indian Creek on What Was, Prior to 1745, Heinrich Rosenberger's Farm*

of oak or other native trees. The soil, which is generally good, varies in its qualities in different localities, so that certain crops do much better in one locality than in another and characterize it agriculturally; for example, potatoes do better and are raised more extensively in some sections than in others, and the same thing is true for orchards and different

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

varieties of fruits. Furthermore, the general aspect of the landscape is often changed by the frequent larger or smaller streams and by the occasional bridges which are to be seen throughout Pennsylvania-German Land.

A small illustration fairly typical of the lay of the land in general is furnished by the view taken from above the upper corner of the orchard on what was once the farm and home of Matthias Heim at Freeburg, in Snyder County, showing a little of the village or borough of Freeburg, of the valley there—called “Pleasant Valley”—and of the spire of St. Peter’s Lutheran and Reformed Church; while another view shows a small section of the farm, picturing a bit of pasturage and brook, and part of the orchard on the ridge in the distance.

The Heim farm buildings, one of which was a two-story frame house of about twenty by thirty feet in size, were on the crest of a gently sloping ridge, a short distance from a somewhat typical brook, called “Fountain Run,” which flowed below them through the farm; but those buildings were removed some years ago by the then owner, who preferred to live in the village and to utilize their site for part of an apple orchard. Furthermore, a

## LAND AND PEOPLE

spring that was back of the house has long been filled up.

Another good example of a brook such as was considered very desirable to have on a farm is to be found in the one pictured as



*Cocalico Creek at Ephrata, and above It Cloister Buildings Erected,  
Beginning in 1730, by German Seventh-Day Baptists;  
in Lancaster County*

“Indian Creek,” which ripples along back of the present buildings on what in the early part of the eighteenth century was the farm of the sturdy German settler and staunch Old Mennonite, Heinrich Rosenberger,<sup>1</sup> who may, or

<sup>1</sup> Jesse Leonard Rosenberger, *The Pennsylvania Germans; A Sketch of Their History and Life, of the Mennonites, and of Side Lights from the Rosenberger Family* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1923), pp. 11, 90-91, 159.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

may not, have been an ancestor of mine.<sup>1</sup> The farm is located at a distance of approximately a mile from the village of Franconia, in Montgomery County.

For a long while in early days most streams that had to be crossed, in going anywhere, had to be forded. But the time came sooner or



*Old Covered Wooden Bridge Spanning Conestoga Creek and Still  
in Use, at Lancaster*

later—and it was often very late—when bridges had, almost of necessity, to be built, especially at important points where fording was very difficult. They were ordinarily built of wood, and many of them were covered over, house-like, with boards, making them sort of tunnels. That was done to preserve them from decay due to exposure to the weather. Now and then

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 140-41.

## LAND AND PEOPLE

one of those old covered bridges may still be seen, as, for example, the one yet in use across Conestoga Creek (sometimes called "River") at Lancaster. But such bridges generally have been, or are being, replaced with modern bridges, in order to meet the vastly increased requirements of twentieth-century traffic.



*One End of Covered Bridge at Lancaster*

Among the bridges of local historic interest, one is the rather attractive, well-constructed, nine-arch, stone Witmer Bridge, over Conestoga Creek, at Lancaster. After that considerable stream had been left to be forded for more than half a century at that important point on the main and much-used highway, and later turnpike, from Philadelphia to Lancaster, on the through route to Pittsburgh, this

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

bridge was built in 1799-1800, to be a toll bridge, as a private enterprise, by Abraham Witmer, a public-spirited citizen from whom Lancaster County subsequently acquired title to the bridge.

Anything like monotony in the landscape is in a large measure precluded by the lay of the



*The Witmer Stone Bridge, Completed in 1800, over Conestoga Creek,  
at Lancaster*

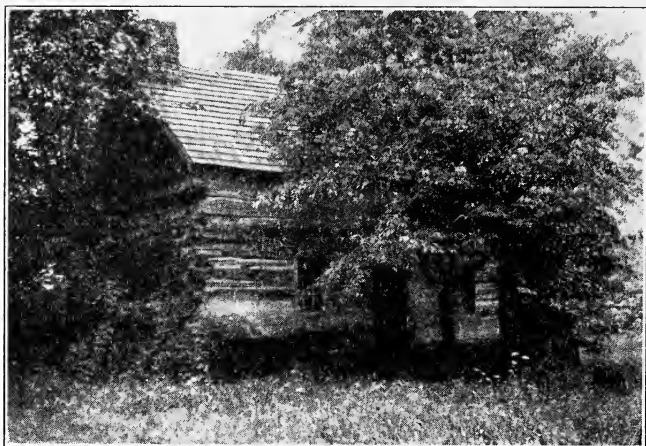
land, the streams and bridges, the orchards and groves, the farm buildings, the church spires here and there, and the growth, at comparatively short distances apart, of small hamlets or what would ordinarily be called "villages" although many of the latter are incorporated as "boroughs." The villages are wont to include a schoolhouse; a church or two; one or more old-style country stores, with here and

## LAND AND PEOPLE

there "chain" stores that are being opened in some places; what was once termed an "inn" or "tavern" but is now denominated a hotel and devoted chiefly to furnishing food and lodgings for passing automobilists or tourists, and, now, instead of, or in addition to, the blacksmith shop of other days, there is a garage, or, at least, a filling station. These villages or boroughs are frequently of considerable length, constructed along a main highway, a row of buildings on each side of the road, without any appreciable lateral expansion. For example, Strasburg, in Lancaster County, has been described by a wag as being two miles long and a yard wide. A portion of the inhabitants of a village is usually composed of retired farmers and those with farms near by.

The climate of Pennsylvania-German Land is of a good average, and reasonably healthful. The average annual rainfall is likewise good—favorable for agriculture.

In the next chapter a number of historical and otherwise interesting buildings are pictured and briefly described.



*Old Log House Being Preserved at Doylestown, Bucks County*

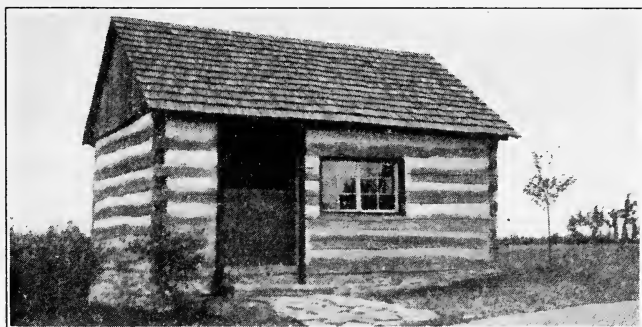
## II. OLD BUILDINGS

TO MY mind one of the most interesting of the various features of the Pennsylvania-German landscape is its old buildings. Few, or none of them, were distinctly architecturally planned; nor were they any more the products of special artistic thought. Nevertheless, I find picturesqueness in many of them, especially in their settings. Solidity, durability, and practical adaptation to the uses for which they were intended characterize them. Particularly is this true of most of the old stone buildings.

With very few exceptions at most, the first buildings of the first settlers were necessarily

## OLD BUILDINGS

constructed of logs, cut and roughly shaped with an ax. Naturally, too, those buildings were generally small—just sufficient in size to meet immediate requirements. Nor, in addition to the more or less large families, was there much to crowd even small houses. There was but a minimum of furniture, and that was



*Log Cabin Removed in 1928 from Blue Mountains to Weiser  
Memorial Park at Womelsdorf, Berks County*

almost all homemade out of handmade boards or plank, with cross-sections of logs often being used for seats and as supports for slabs or planks for benches.

Few of the early log buildings, as such, are to be found now; not even as outbuildings. Either they have been torn down in order to make room for the erection in their stead of new, larger, and otherwise better buildings,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

particularly houses and barns, or they have succumbed to decay.

Two good examples of old log houses are furnished by the views, of one at Doylestown, in Bucks County, and of another in Weiser Memorial Park, at Womelsdorf, in Berks County. Both of those log houses, or cabins,



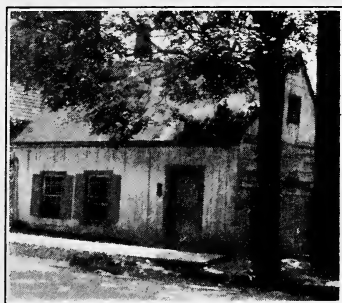
*"Gray Cottage," Built of Logs by Moravians in 1740, at Nazareth, in Northampton County, and Since Then Somewhat Modernized*

were found at somewhat distant places and taken to their present sites to be preserved as relics of historic importance. The "Gray Cottage" at Nazareth, in Northampton County, was built by the Moravians in 1740, according to a good authority, although a tablet gives the date as 1742. It has been well preserved, partly weatherboarded, and somewhat modernized, and is now occupied as a dwelling. It is highly

## OLD BUILDINGS

prized by the Moravians as their oldest building extant at Nazareth. The log cabin in Weiser Memorial Park has the usual divided door of early times, permitting the upper half to be open for light or observation while the lower half was closed and fastened against intruding persons and domestic and wild animals.

Then there are, principally in various villages and cities, considerable numbers of log houses disguised under an outside covering of painted or



*Partly Weatherboarded Log House at Mannheim, Lancaster County*

unpainted weatherboards; or, less frequently, under a covering of stucco. This weatherboarding and stuccoing was done chiefly to arrest decay and to provide future protection from the destructive action of the elements, though in some cases it was done partly also as a camouflage and to improve the looks of the buildings, many of which are still being used as dwellings.

Good examples of weatherboarded log houses are to be seen in the small view showing the logs at one end of the house and in the view

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

following it of two houses. The larger of these two houses was once a stable, part of the forebay of which is preserved as part of a porch for the house. These three buildings are in Manheim, Lancaster County.

The view of the stuccoed small log building in Boyertown, Berks County, a building said



*Two Weatherboarded Log Houses, the Larger One Once a Stable, in Manheim*

to be over one hundred and fifty years old and once to have housed a family of ten—parents and eight children—is of added interest because of the broken places in the stucco showing how the log walls were first lathed over and then the stucco applied. Sometimes the stucco was simply ordinary plaster; at other times it

## OLD BUILDINGS

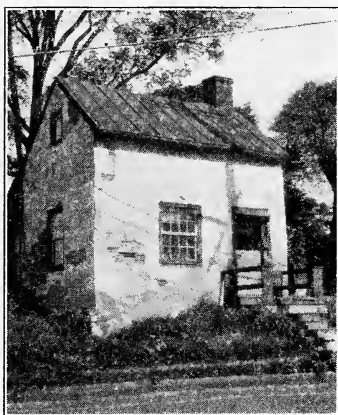
was of varied composition. It was also frequently painted over, one color or another.

Likewise, many old, and especially rough-walled, stone houses have, by some of the later generations of occupants, been stuccoed over and perhaps painted, while various other changes and improvements have been made in them, both on the outside and in the interior to increase the comfort and satisfaction of living in them.

Now and then there was a stone house built at a comparatively early date by a settler who had the means and the desire to build it, but most of the many stone houses that were built were of what may be called the "second era," counting the era of the log house as the "first era." That is to say, the stone houses were generally built after the first settlers had attained to a measure of success in what had been their great trans-Atlantic adventure, and felt the need of larger and better houses; or those houses were built by members of the succeeding generation who inherited or otherwise came into possession of the farms. The stone used for the walls of the houses was nearly always a rough, grayish shale, one edge being made passably straight for the outer side of the wall. This stone, sometimes termed "field

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

stone," was usually obtained somewhere on the farm, or, if not there, from some place near by. The stone was roughly laid in, or pointed with, some sort of mortar. Barns were also often similarly built of similar stone during this period. After that there came, as a class, frame houses and brick ones; also, conspicuously large barns, generally painted red.



*Old Stuccoed Log House in Boyertown,  
Berks County*

These barns, typically, were frame above stone walls one-story high, the lower, stone-walled story being used as a stable for horses and cattle, while in the upper, frame part, hay and grain, cornstalks and corn might be stored and

a small motor-driven threshing machine, corn sheller, or feed cutter might be operated, as needful. Moreover, one side of the frame part was commonly made to extend possibly eight feet, more or less, beyond the stone wall on that side, thus making a forebay or shelter for animals left in the barnyard, and sometimes

## OLD BUILDINGS

a place for leaving a buggy or a wagon or for the storage of implements. That style of large combined barn and stable is the one which is yet ordinarily being built.

Many of the old stone dwelling-houses are still in use and to be seen at longer or shorter intervals throughout the areas in which the



*Stone House in Which Conrad Weiser Lived on Farm Now Weiser  
Memorial Park at Womelsdorf, Berks County*

Germans settled. More than that, similar stone houses and frame barns over stone stables are occasionally encountered in other sections, including western states, to which some of the Pennsylvania Germans migrated from time to time.

Except for the porch, bay window, and dormer windows, which presumably were added years after the house was built in 1809,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

the stone farmhouse shown in the frontispiece<sup>1</sup> is reasonably typical of many of the old Pennsylvania-German stone houses, though different houses varied much in size, probably owing to differences in the size of families and the relative wealth, or lack of means, of the



*The Rittenhouse Stuccoed Stone House Built in 1707 near Germantown  
on Site Now a Part of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia*

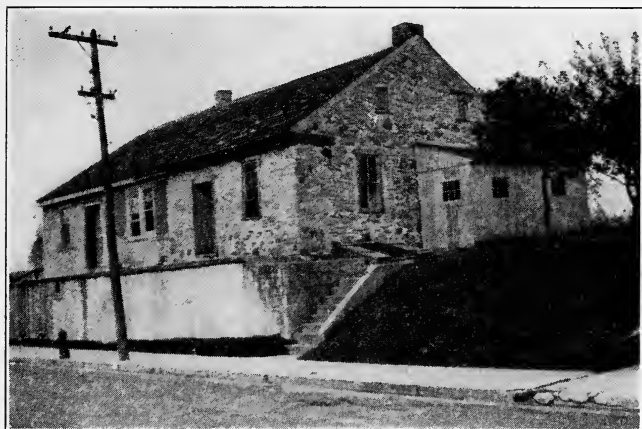
builders. The houses were usually either a story and a half or two stories and a half in height, the half-story under the roof, whether finished as a room or left as an unfinished attic, being utilized to the utmost for whatever it

<sup>1</sup> This house is on what was Heinrich Rosenberger's farm in part of the first half of the seventeen hundreds. (*The Pennsylvania Germans*, pp. 43, 140.)

## OLD BUILDINGS

might be most needed, which in the smaller houses was frequently as a bedroom for one or more beds that were oftentimes laid on the floor and were reached by climbing a ladder.

An unusually well-preserved stone house a story and a half high that is not only attrac-

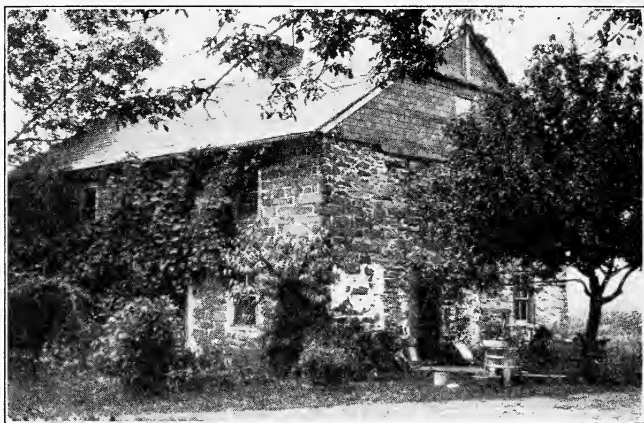


*Old Stone Building Once Used as a Place of Worship and for a School,  
in Kutztown, Berks County*

tive in itself but is of more than common historic interest is the one which has been made a sort of shrine by the creation out of its site and surrounding land what was dedicated September 1, 1928, as Weiser Memorial Park, at or near Womelsdorf, in Berks County. A tablet on the front of the house reads: "Home of

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Conrad Weiser 1729-1760 Churchman, counsellor, soldier, Indian interpreter, agent, diplomat and first judge of Berks County. Here were held many conferences with Indian chiefs, missionaries, colonial governors and leaders. 'Posterity cannot forget his services,'



*A Very Old Stone House Still in Use at Pennsburg, Montgomery County*

President George Washington." A noticeable feature of the house is the bake-oven attached to one end. In the stone farmhouse pictured in the frontispiece a bake-oven was built in the basement of the house. But, as a rule, bake-ovens were built outdoors, a little away from the house.

Another stone house of recognized historic

## OLD BUILDINGS

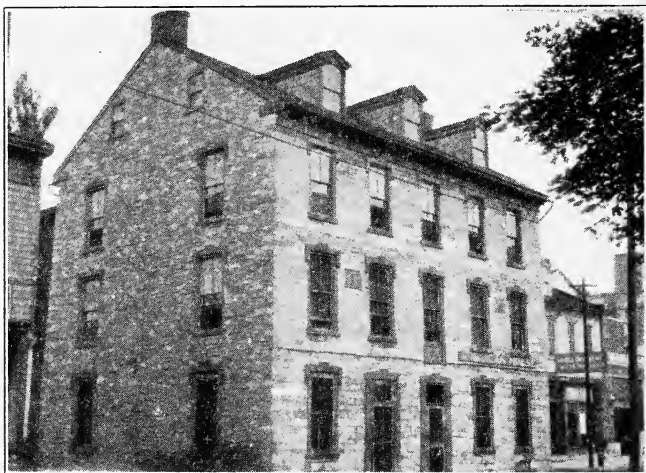
interest is the Rittenhouse stuccoed stone dwelling-house of two and one-half stories in height which was built at the very early date of 1707 on a bank of Wissahickon Creek at or near Germantown. The house and grounds are now included in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. Germantown, founded in 1683 and now a part of the city of Philadelphia, was the first distinctly German settlement in Pennsylvania, accounted as being two hours distant from Philadelphia. The distance was about six miles, through a dense forest of trees and undergrowth.

The long, low stone building at Kutztown, in Berks County, is of special local interest on account of its having served first as a house of worship for St. John's Lutheran and Reformed congregations and then for some time for a parochial school, and afterward for a while for a public school. It is now occupied by two families. Of course, it is quite old.

The oldest house in Pennsburg, Montgomery County, still in use as a dwelling, was built of a reddish stone. It probably was one and a half stories in height at first and was later made two and a half stories high. Like one of the weatherboarded log houses in Manheim and the Rittenhouse stuccoed stone house of

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

1707, it has the chimney at the center of the roof. This was a characteristic of many of the old Pennsylvania-German houses, which were so built because the Germans were among the first in Pennsylvania to adopt the use of stoves



*Unusually Large Stone Inn Built in 1771, at Lebanon, with an Invocation for a Blessing on the House and All Going In and Out*

(partly for economy in the use of wood as a fuel), placing them where they would best heat their houses and require the least amount of stovepipe. Heat from the stovepipe was depended upon to warm, as well as it might, the upper part of the house, through which the pipe passed to the chimney. Other people in

## OLD BUILDINGS

general made more and later use of fireplaces than did the Pennsylvania Germans.

The inn which is now the American House, in Lebanon, Lebanon County, is a stone building of marked solidity three and a half stories high. It has two tablets in the front wall, between windows of the second story. One tablet records the building of the inn in 1771. The other reads: "Gott Segne Dises Haus und Ales was da geht ein und aus. Caspar & Sawina Schnebely. A D 1771" ("God bless this house and all what there goes in and out").

Church and school buildings, along with religious and educational conditions, now come for separate consideration.



*Front of ("Old") Mennonite Church at Lancaster*

### III. CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

A VERY large proportion of the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania were of a deeply religious nature. In fact, many of them came there principally to escape persecution for their religious beliefs and to obtain freedom to worship God as demanded by their consciences. Pennsylvania was chosen by them as the best place to secure religious liberty on account of the tolerant and generally liked religious views of its Quaker founder, William Penn, who sent agents to the oppressed in various parts of the Old World, inviting them to come to a land of the greatest amount of religious and political freedom.

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

The Germans who came in response to the invitation, or on other accounts, belonged for the most part to various sects, a great many being Mennonites, or as they are now often designated "Old Mennonites," to distinguish them from the "New Mennonites" and other

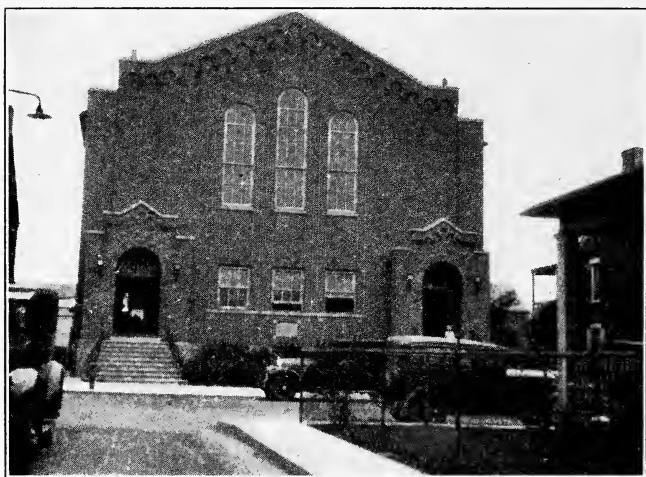


*Whitewashed Log Meeting-House Built in 1752 by the Mennonites at  
Landisville, Lancaster County*

branches of Mennonites. There were also a good many Lutherans and German Reformed among the early settlers. Furthermore, the number of sects first represented has since been considerably increased by schisms and by the formation of new sects, for the creation of which the Pennsylvania Germans have at all times shown somewhat of a propensity.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

The Mennonites and others of the so-called “plain people”—so called on account of their severely plain garb and efforts to be plain people—were satisfied at first to build only small meeting-houses of the plainest type, and have, in the main, continued up to the present



*Front of "Radio" Mennonite Church in Allentown*

time to build only austere plain churches varying merely in size, as required to accommodate the different congregations. However, some of the newer sects and offshoots from the older are showing a disposition to make their churches outwardly more imposing or attractive architecturally, as also more inviting in-

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

teriorly, at the same time evincing an inclination to be more liberal in the matter of dress or garb, as well as in some other things.

Something of this new spirit or tendency is revealed in the slightly ornamental front of the

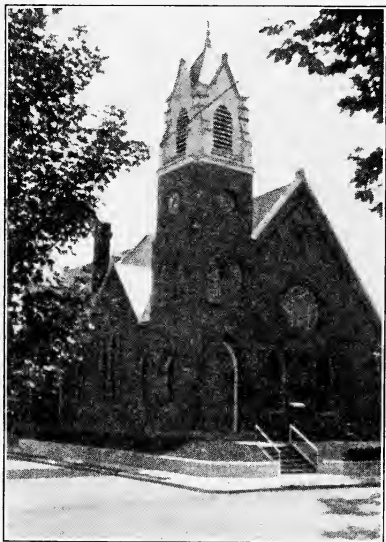


*Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Built of Stone in 1798, at Lebanon*

brick church of the Bethel Mennonite Brethren in Christ, at Allentown, popularly known as the "Radio Mennonite Church" because one of its Sunday services is broadcast by radio, owing largely to one of the members of the

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

church having a controlling interest in the station through which the broadcasting is done. Then, too, flowers are planted between the front of the church and the sidewalk. The members of the church are expected to dress



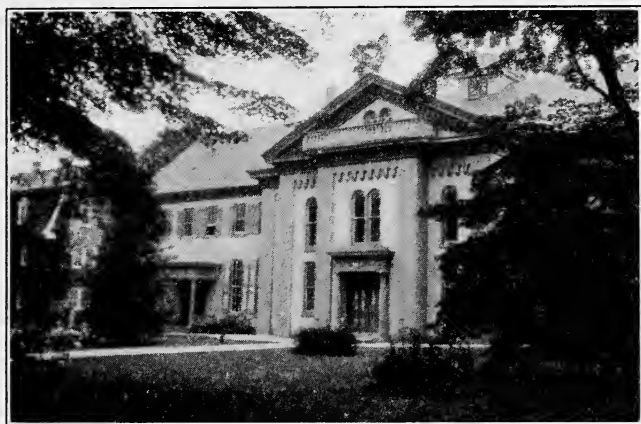
*Zion Lutheran Church, or "Church of the Roses," in Manheim*

plainly but are not required to wear any special garb. The schism which led to the formation of this branch of the Mennonites is said to have occurred from a disagreement concerning holding cottage prayer meetings.

Not many of the first, lowly houses of wor-

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

ship still stand; while such as remain, with others of a little later date, like many of the other old buildings and landmarks of more or less historic interest and local pride, are being torn down, especially in villages and cities,



*Moravian Church at Lititz, Lancaster County; Wing at Left Built in 1761; Central Part, in 1787*

in order that their sites may be utilized for either new and finer churches or business buildings of some kind, as the case may be. For instance, a fine old Mennonite church of moderate size, built of stone in 1804, which I saw six years ago at Strasburg, Lancaster County, I found, when I returned there a few months ago, had been torn down and a larger, typical,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

plain red-brick church had been erected on its site, some of the stone of the old church having been used in the foundation of the new church. This had been done notwithstanding that it would seem that there was plenty of room for the new church without razing the old one, and that the latter might have been preserved as an interesting historic relic or landmark and put to some good use in connection with the new church.

The Mennonite church at Lancaster, of which a view of the front part is shown, a tablet says was "Erected by the Old Mennonite Congregation 1873. To God Be All the Praise." The church is architecturally typical of most of the Old Mennonite churches now in use or being built by the Old Mennonites. They are just plain red-brick buildings varying in size according to local needs. They have neither spires nor cupolas of any description. Solid board window blinds, painted white, are attached to the sides of the windows, on the outside, of many of the churches, and are kept tightly closed between services, particularly where they are out in the country, as many of them are. Services are held in most of them only every other Sunday, and in a considerable number but once every four weeks. On the

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Sundays when there are no services in a church, such of its members as can, and wish to do so, are expected to go to the nearest other church of the same kind where there are services, a plan designed to help in the maintenance of more local churches than could



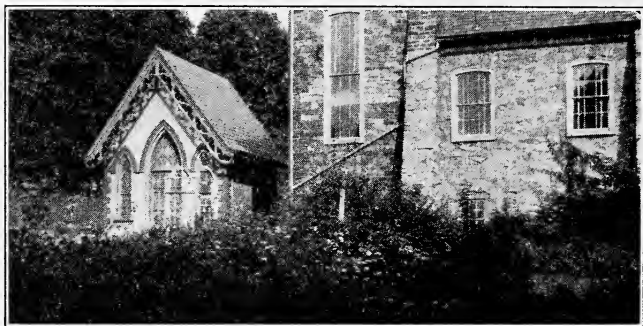
*Corner of Moravian "Corpse House"; Stone Church Erected in 1751; and  
Log "Clergy House" Built in 1741 (now Weatherboarded);  
at Bethlehem*

otherwise exist. This also in a measure explains why, on a pleasant Sunday, a large number of automobiles may often be seen parked near a Mennonite church in a small village or in a sparsely settled rural neighborhood. The Amish Mennonites of the old order do not have any churches but hold their services, once every two weeks, in the homes of members,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

going in rotation from one house to another and being provided at each with a meal.

From the best information that I could get in connection with my first visit to the old log Mennonite meeting-house at Landisville, in Lancaster County, it was built about 1790. Now, however, there is affixed above the door



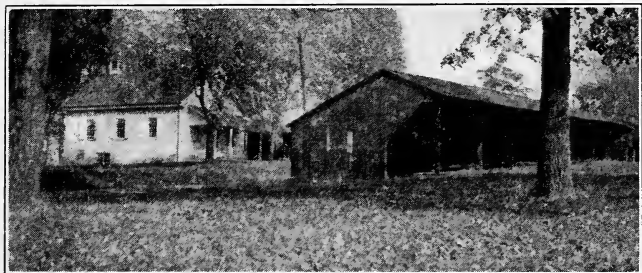
*"Corpse House" at Corner of Moravian Stone Church in Bethlehem*

at one end of the building the date 1752. The building is whitewashed on the outside. When it ceased to be used as a meeting-house, it was converted into a dwelling for the sexton of the large, severely plain brick church which was erected near it to take its place as a house of worship.

In Lebanon, where I found the massive old stone inn with a quaint invocation, there is a substantial stone church of attractive outward

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

appearance—the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was consecrated in 1798. It is the second church to stand on that corner, for a tablet says, “On this site in 1766 was erected the first church and school house in the city of Lebanon.” Moreover, this stone church has been, in its turn, superseded as a house of wor-



*Old Rural Schoolhouse and Horse Sheds in Montgomery County*

ship by an architecturally more stylish brick church close to it, the stone church being left to be used for social purposes. The tower shown back of it in the view is that of a Methodist church on the other side of a street separating the two churches.

Zion Lutheran Church, best known as the “Church of the Roses,” in Manheim, Lancaster County, derives this characterization from the fact that it stands on ground which was deeded in 1772 by the somewhat eccentric

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Henry William ("Baron") Stiegel, founder of this quaint German-like town wherein he established his famous glass works, who stated in the deed that the land conveyed was "for the use and benefit of the German Lutheran Congregation," and stipulated for the yielding and payment, in the month of June yearly, forever, to him, his heirs, and assigns, of a rental of one red rose, "if the same shall be lawfully demanded." This provision was soon either lost sight of or for some reason ignored until after the old deed was resurrected in 1891, when the present red-brick edifice was erected. Since then, there has been an annual gathering at the church, where what is called the "festival of roses" has been developed, at which one red rose is delivered into the hands of a descendant of the grantor of the site for the church.

Like a great many of the old stone houses, a considerable number of the old stone churches have in the course of time been stuccoed over, in some instances improving their outward appearance very much. One case of the stuccoing of a church of a somewhat different style of architecture from the ordinary one of early days, is that of the Moravian Church at Lititz, in Lancaster County. The wing on the left of a

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

person facing the building was built first, in 1761 or in 1763, according to different statements; and a hall in its second story was used as the place of worship until the church proper, built of limestone, was consecrated in August, 1787. That wing is now used as the parsonage.



*Stuccoed Stone Schoolhouse Built about Seventy-five Years Ago at  
Perkiomenville, in Montgomery County*

A little back of, and out from, the rear corner of the other wing there is a small stone building called the "corpse house," in which the Moravians have been wont to place the remains of the deceased, under the care of the sexton or undertaker, when funeral services are held in the church, the bodies not being permitted to

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

be taken into the church but being allowed to be viewed in the corpse house.

The oldest building extant in Bethlehem, Lehigh County, was the second one erected there by the Moravians, and it is of added interest as having been the first place of public



*Red-Brick Schoolhouse of 1853 at Fagleysville, Montgomery County*

worship in Bethlehem. It was built of logs in 1741 and was afterward weather-boarded. It is quite a large building, now known as the "Clergy House"—a kind of church-apartment house. It is the building looking like a frame one in the Bethlehem

view which shows along with it the Moravian stone church that was erected in 1751. This church is now used only as a chapel for auxiliary church purposes, including weddings and funerals. At the corner of the church is shown a small part of the front of the corpse house, which another view shows more fully, adjacent to a corner of the church.

The services in the old Pennsylvania-

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

German churches were originally entirely in German, or, where the ministry was not a particularly educated one, the sermons, prayers, and announcements might be in Pennsylvania German, but using the German Bible and German hymns. But at comparatively recent, varying dates, as young people have grown up, using the English language more and more, church services in English have been introduced and are now quite general, except where, for the benefit of the older people, services partly or entirely in German are held on alternate Sundays, or from time to time.



*Going to School—One Attended Almost Solely by Amish Children, in Lancaster County*

Conservative as the Pennsylvania Germans are by nature, and as strongly inclined as they are to maintain fundamentally unchanged their religious beliefs and practices, still they are slowly, if not always perceptibly, being more or less influenced by the spirit of the

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

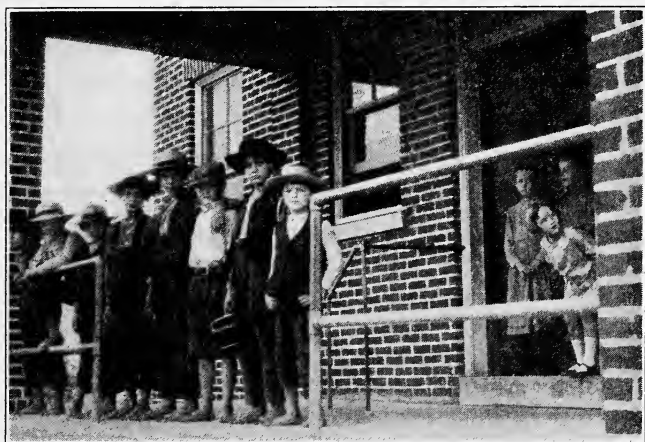
times which seems to be affecting religious thought and church relations generally, everywhere. This is especially true with regard to the young people, and true to an extent, too, of such young people as have been raised in the strict faith of the Mennonites. All of which tends to explain the tendency of many to abandon the wearing of a distinctive religious garb and to do some things heretofore deemed sinful, but which most people now do, or look upon as innocent.

No small part of the subtle influence affecting beliefs and customs is attributable to the contacts of the children with other children and with new ideas at the public schools. Indeed, owing to the part that the state has taken in establishing and maintaining schools and in promoting education, there has been a greater change among the Pennsylvania Germans in regard to education than in almost any other fundamentally important respect. Moreover, it is significant that it has been said that a large proportion, if not most, of the children "despise" the so-called "Pennsylvania-Dutch" (Pennsylvania-German) language or dialect.

The Moravians, Lutherans, and German Reformed early established elementary German schools, and later academies and some

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

theological institutions for the education and training of a ministry. Some of the first parochial schools were conducted in the meeting-houses or churches and were frequently taught by the pastors. But some of the early



*Amish Children on Porch of Schoolhouse in Lancaster County*

schools were taught in private houses, spring-houses, and unoccupied buildings.

When efforts were first made by the state to establish free public schools, they were strongly opposed by the Pennsylvania Germans as a whole, on account of their interference with the parochial schools, their non-religious character, and their instruction being in English; also, because of the taxation for

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

their support applying to property owners who sent no children to them, as well as to parents who sent children to them, and then only in case that the parents had taxable property. Besides, there were many Pennsylvania Germans who thought that no more than a minimum of instruction in the three R's was needed by the boys, while less than the instruction which they would allow the boys should be given to the girls, who, if anything, might be better off without any schooling; they thought that education, or too much of it, would make both dissatisfied with farm life.

As I. D. Rupp expressed it, in his history of Union County published in 1847, "Education is a mere secondary matter with the great mass of the inhabitants, especially the agricultural portion of them. The cultivation of the soil is deemed, with many, of more importance than the improvement of the mind." The inhabitants of five townships, he further stated, had not yet seen proper to adopt the common-school system. In other cases the schools were open only five months in the year. Male teachers were paid \$20.17 a month; and female teachers, \$9.83.

The earliest public schoolhouses, many of which were not much more than about four-

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

teen by eighteen feet in size, were built of logs and roofed with clapboards. The windows were few and small. The walls of the schoolrooms were not plastered, and the rooms were not ceiled overhead. Slightly sloping desks, the length of the walls and perhaps eighteen inches or more wide, were built against the walls, except where interrupted, as for the teacher's table or desk on a low platform usually at the center of the end of the room opposite the door. A few inches under the desks a level shelf,



*Amish Girls on Schoolhouse Porch*

likewise continuous, served to hold books and papers. In front of the desks benches of equal length with them, but without any backs and of the same height for all pupils, were constructed out of slabs or planks. The pupils were assigned places at the desks and corresponding seats on the benches. A wood stove occupied the center of the room.

Three views of moderately old public schoolhouses still being used are reproduced in this

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

chapter. One of them is of a small rural schoolhouse, with horse sheds a short distance away, in the foreground, the sheds being like those which were once almost universally built near meeting-houses and churches in the country and villages. The second view is of a stucco-covered schoolhouse built perhaps seventy-five years ago at Perkiomenville. The third is of a red-brick schoolhouse built in 1853 and located in the small hamlet of Fagleysville. All three are in Montgomery County and are fairly representative of the old public schoolhouses yet in use.

Such old, one-room schoolhouses, however, are gradually being closed. New, larger, modern, and much better equipped buildings are taking their place and becoming centers of a higher grade of instruction and of greater social and civic influence in their respective communities. This is largely made possible through a consolidation of several small school districts into one larger one, with provision for the transportation of the children to and from school by means of school, automobile busses, which for the purpose make the rounds of the districts before and after school hours.

Passing from this subject, the next to be taken up is that of farming, which also is of

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very great importance relative to the Pennsylvania Germans, as will be readily understood. In connection with the subject of farming, and on account of county fairs being theoretically intended to show to the best advantage what is being produced on the farms of the different counties, brief descriptions and personal impressions are given of four of the 1928 autumnal county fairs, although these did not on the whole represent any too well the products of their respective counties, or reveal the local interest in them which could properly be expected.



*A Large Tree Loaded Down with Apples, on Market-Garden Farm  
of Isaac C. Rosenberry, North of Pottstown*

#### IV. FARMING

THE Pennsylvania Germans have always been distinguished as farmers, and as farmers they have contributed immeasurably toward giving the state its high rank agriculturally, in a measure comparable to that which it enjoys by reason of its rich coal fields and its great iron and steel industries. Indeed, the Pennsylvania Germans, with few exceptions, may, in all their generations, be said to have been born farmers, as well as thrifty, hard workers, who, proceeding with a knowledge and sagacity acquired by personal experience or from information handed down

## FARMING

from one generation to another, and having a zest for their work, could hardly fail as a whole to make a success of their occupation.

Nor is this eminently deserved credit to be given entirely to the men. In times past, the Pennsylvania-German women, wives, and



*Red-Brick Farmhouse Built by Jacob Rosenberry about 1860, near  
Fagleysville, in Montgomery County*

grown daughters, have not only done the housekeeping, the baking and cooking, the washing and ironing, the milking and butter-making, the family sewing and mending, but they have, when needed, helped the men with their work, especially at harvest and other critical times, a woman often doing a man's

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

work. The children, too—the boys and girls of all ages, except the very young ones (and the families were usually large)—did their share of the chores and farm work in proportion to their strength, being from a tender age taught to work, and being looked upon as a



*Scene near Fagleysville, in Montgomery County*

family asset as helpers until the boys reached their majority and the girls got married and left home.

Some of the women still do considerable outdoor work, but, taken as a whole, the women do less and less of such work each year, even in the matter of caring for the vegetable gardens, although because of the difficulty in

## FARMING

getting good hired hands and the high wages that must now be paid them, it is often thought necessary that some outdoor work be done yet by the women, particularly where the men try to get along without hiring help or with hiring as little as possible. Fortunately, it is estimated that, with modern mechanical equip-



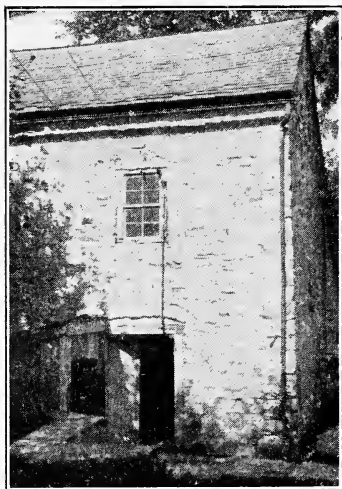
*Autumnal Scene in Berks County*

ment, a man can farm nearly three times as much land as he could say seventy-five years ago, or thirty-four acres now as against twelve acres then, although much depends on what kind of farming is done.

Again, there is an increasing tendency on the part of the boys to leave the farms as soon as they can get away from them, in order to earn some of the high wages being paid in the cities. At the same time, it is being charged

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

that buying on the instalment plan, as of automobiles and other things, is tending to kill in the young the old Pennsylvania-German habit of "thrift" or saving. Many, too, of the girls are going into the cities to find employment,



*Large Springhouse at Cetronia, near  
Allentown*

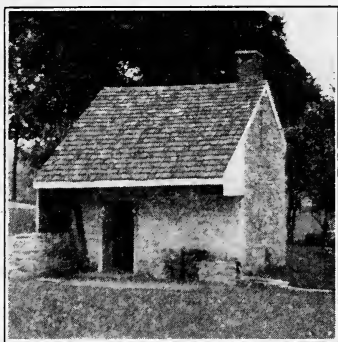
some of them first adding to their common school education a course of study at a business college and then seeking positions as stenographers. Then, not a few of the girls still marry very young—some at the early age of sixteen or seventeen years—usually to young farmers; sometimes to young

mechanics, or others than farmers.

But the apparently pleasanter living, amusements, and social attractions of the cities are gradually being more and more offset by the invention and adoption of new mechanical appliances for doing farmwork and housework, making both easier and more congenial,

## FARMING

by the introduction into the homes of a variety of comforts, among them not infrequently being domestic plumbing, electric lighting, and electric or other power washing-machines and appliances, milking-machines and cream-separators, telephones making communications with neighbors and the transaction of many forms of business a matter of moments without leaving the house, and radios bringing to the home living-room important news of the hour, market prices, and various reports and



*Springhouse in Weiser Memorial Park*

hints for the farmer, as well as music, entertainment, and varied information for all members of the family. Besides, improved roads and automobiles make it easy to go to neighboring villages or to the nearest city as often as desired for business purposes, or even to see a moving-picture show, and make it easy to visit relatives and friends, which is done to a great extent on Sundays and holidays. The rural free delivery of mail also helps to eliminate any

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

feeling of exclusion from the outside world, especially when it brings a Philadelphia or other daily paper, a variety of periodicals, and letters.

There has also been a great change in the handling of the milk from the larger or smaller



*Front of Old Outdoor Cellar at Cetronia*

number of dairy cows kept on the farms, which frees the women from the labor of caring for the milk, making butter and cheese, and often of marketing these products. For many years the practice was to take the milk to the spring-house on the farm, strain the milk into earthen or other pans, leave it for the cream to gather, skim off the cream at the proper time and, when sufficient cream had been obtained, churn

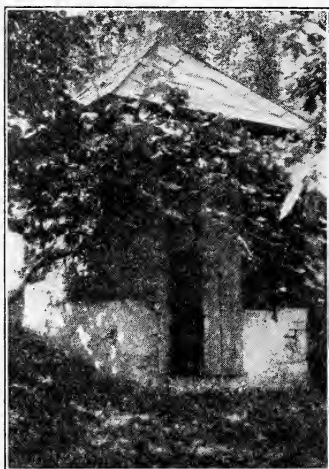
## FARMING

it into butter. The butter thus obtained was worked, made into rolls or packed in earthen jars, and taken to some store or other market for it. Some of the skimmed milk was made into cheese, but most of it was fed to the hogs, of which a number were usually raised.

The great change came when creameries were built at various conveniently central places in sections where considerable milk was produced; and the farmers thereafter took the milk fresh, in large cans, to the creameries, where they sold it at so much a hundred pounds. Then they bought from the creameries what butter they desired for family use and also whatever amount of skimmed milk they wanted to feed their hogs. This method is still being followed to some extent, but many of the creameries are being closed for inability to get sufficient milk, owing to competition for the purchase of the milk by large dealers, generally companies, in Philadelphia and some other cities. These dealers lay out routes along certain highways and build platforms at points along the routes. The farmers, with horses and light wagons, or with automobile trucks, take their milk in cans to the nearest platform and place it on the platform, much as they previously took it to the creamery.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Then the dealers have large motor trucks go along the routes, soon afterward, to collect the milk and convey it to their pasteurizing- and bottling-plants near, or in, the city, whence, as whole milk and such products as cream, buttermilk, skimmed milk, butter, and cottage cheese, it is distributed at wholesale and retail to customers in the city.



*Old Smokehouse at Cetronia*

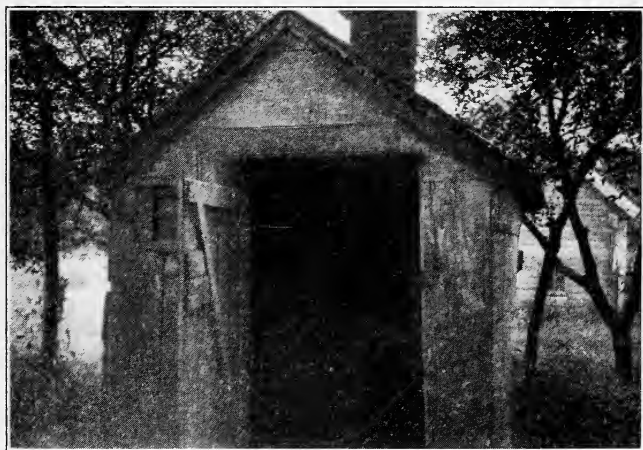
Again, there has been a considerable saving of labor for the women in the matter of baking, owing to bakers sending regularly through the country motor vehicles loaded with fresh bread and some other bak-

ery goods for the farmers, large numbers of whom now get their bread from this source instead of having their women folks bake it perhaps once or twice a week.

The farms of the Pennsylvania Germans vary greatly in size, not a few being quite small, or about what one man can easily man-

## FARMING

age—twenty or thirty acres—while others may contain one hundred or more acres (perhaps fifty or sixty acres might be called an average size). The conditions already described tend to make small farms preferable in various ways to larger ones, for many men. At that, there is



*Bake-Oven at Old "Cloister" in Ephrata*

more or less selling of farms to "foreigners," as they call them—Italians and others—and "moving to town." These "foreigners," they say, possibly somewhat jealously, do not make as good farmers, or as successful ones, as the Pennsylvania Germans.

In the fall, what are called "feeders," that

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

is, steers which need fattening to fit them for market, are shipped from the West to dealers in Lancaster and elsewhere who sell them to farmers who have the pasture and the feed needed to keep them through the winter and fatten them, the farmers depending for their profits on the increase in weight and market value of the steers. Silage is being largely used as feed for stock in winter.



*Amish Farmer,  
Lancaster County*

A secondary reason, of some weight, why the farmers like to have live stock—horses, dairy cows, and feeders—on their farms, is that they want the manure produced, which they utilize by spreading it over the land where it is needed as a fertilizer. The Pennsylvania Germans know the importance of keeping the soil in proper condition and of not letting it become exhausted; in other words, of feeding it sometimes, if it is to continue indefinitely to feed and clothe them.

Almost every farmer, too, raises poultry. Some keep only a few hens. Others raise, for market, on a small scale—besides chickens—ducks, geese, and turkeys, even pigeons, rab-

## FARMING

bits, and guinea pigs; while still others go into raising chickens in large numbers, usually white leghorns, for market and the sale of eggs. Where only a limited amount of poultry is raised, it is expected to pick up a good part of its feed in the barnyard and other places; whereas in other cases the cost or the value of the feed used must be charged, with some other items, against the market returns for the poultry and poultry products, in calculating profits.

In crops, there is also, as a rule, diversification; along with a beneficial rotation. A farm is usually subdivided, with some indefiniteness and frequent variations, into several fields for different grains or crops, such as corn, winter oats, hay, and potatoes. But in a locality where the soil and conditions are especially favorable for a particular grain or other crop, as, for example, corn, tobacco, or potatoes,



*Amish Woman and Girls from a Farm, Shopping in Lancaster*

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

that crop may be given the greatest acreage, or specialized in. Market gardening is also made a specialty by some farmers.

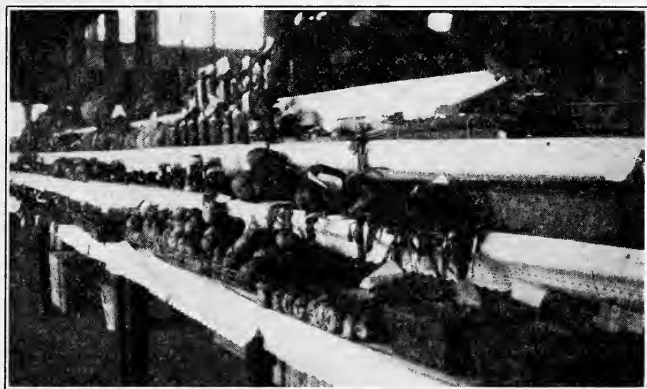
The implements bought and used vary much in number and kind, from a few of the more indispensable ones for small farms to a greater number and variety for large farms. Thus, one farm may have little more than plows, harrows, and hand tools, while another has, in addition, a tractor, manure-spreader, several kinds of planters, cultivators, a harvester, mower, small thrashing-machine, horse rake and hay-loader, potato-digger, corn cutter and husker, silo-filler, gasoline engine, and so on, or whatever is needed of such equipment.

A pleasant and memorable event of the fall for many families is the gathering from far and near of the clans in what are known as "family reunions," which are sometimes attended by hundreds who are related by blood or marriage. These reunions are quite numerous and usually take the form of picnics in well-shaded, delightful groves. Speeches are generally made by chosen members, and outdoor games and contests are enthusiastically engaged in for diversions and the social warming-up of the diffident and less well acquainted. Some of the reunions are held on Sunday, and include

## FARMING

religious services instead of the games and athletic features.

In the fall and winter, too, some diversion is furnished by the churches, which hold harvest-home services and festivals, and a variety of "suppers" appealing to persons of



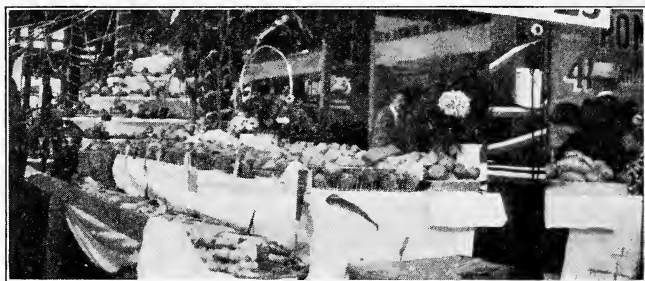
*Some Exhibits at Lebanon County Fair*

vigorous appetites and digestions—sauerkraut suppers, roast-beef and pork suppers, baked-ham suppers, and the like.

The routine of farm life furthermore is, or may be, broken, and pleasant and profitable diversion furnished, by raising or preparing exhibits for, and then attending, the county agricultural fairs which are held practically weekly in one county or another, with very

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

little overlapping of dates, from in August until in October. Moreover, arranged as to dates as the fairs are, with from three to six days' duration each, it is easy for persons who wish to do so to exhibit at several of them, or to visit them for purposes of comparing exhibits in different counties, or simply for diversion,



*Exhibits at the Schuylkill County Fair near Pottsville*

more attention being given each year by the managers to providing amusements and diversions for young and old, even to including some features of a questionable character.

I attended four of the 1928 fairs, if anything with increasing interest. The first one was that held at Lancaster, August 21-25. Knowing the high reputation and boastful claims of Lancaster County as a leader in agriculture, I expected to see its leadership visibly proved at the fair; but I was in that respect not a little

## FARMING

disappointed, the horticultural and agricultural exhibits being in general, it seemed to me, only ordinary. In fact, I have liked better some displays of fruits and vegetables that I have seen in the market-houses in Lancaster. The live-stock exhibit was also mediocre. The cattle in it were mainly "feeders," obtained

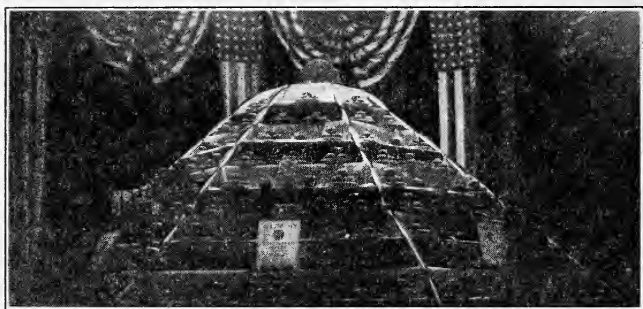


*On the Midway at Schuylkill County Fair*

from dealers at the local stock yards. Nor were there any exhibits of farm or other horses. But there were exhibits of several makes of automobiles and some of tractors. The poultry show, which included chickens of many breeds, sizes, and colors, also pigeons, ducks, geese, turkeys, covies or guinea pigs, and rabbits, was one of the best features of the fair. Nor did any great number of the farmers in the

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

vicinity of Lancaster appear to take any interest in the fair by visiting it and examining the exhibits which it had. The crowd-drawing attractions were the "midway" or carnival features of side shows; palmists; booths for the sale of ice-cream, soft drinks, peanuts, pop corn, and a variety of gaudy articles; games of chance and other schemes for winning cheap



*Central Fruit Exhibit at Allentown Fair*

prizes that might either be operated crookedly or classed as gambling; circus and vaudeville acts on a stage or platform in front of the grand stand; and horse-racing.

In the Lebanon County Fair, at Lebanon, which was held August 28-31, I expected less, and, to my surprise, found greater satisfaction than at Lancaster. It seemed to me to be more representative of the agricultural and horti-

## FARMING

cultural products of the county. It had, moreover, pretty good exhibits of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry. Of course there was also a full amount of carnival and other amusement features, with horse-racing, much as at Lancaster.

What I have just said about the Lebanon County Fair applies almost equally to the



*On the Midway at the Allentown Fair*

Schuylkill County Fair which was held on fair grounds near Pottsville September 3-7, except that there, again, there was no exhibit of horses, but a considerable one of automobiles. Besides fairly large and interesting exhibits of canned fruits and vegetables, jellies, and the like, there was at this fair an extensive display of women's fancy work. One building, too, was devoted entirely to an exhibition of work done by pupils in various schools in the county.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Another featured exhibit, under a tent, was of the heifers of a "Boys' and Girls' Heifer Club." It was also strikingly noticeable that, like a death's-head at a banquet, a local manufacturing concern had a conspicuous exhibit of caskets.

Another fair with quite good exhibits was the one denominated "The Great Allentown Fair," held September 18-22, which I attended next. Yet there, again, the emphasis was not placed on the amount and quality of the exhibits but large posters advertised as the special attractions: "Horse racing; new free acts; girl revue; auto races Saturday"; and the automobile races seemed to be the most popular and drawing single feature of the fair. Such is the spirit apparently dominating the fairs, even where they are very good otherwise.

Most of the views in this chapter are self-explaining. However, the chief interest in several of them is that they picture things reminiscent of the past. This is true of the views of old springhouses and smokehouses. From what has been said about the change in methods of handling milk, it is plain that springhouses, which once were very important adjuncts of farms, are, like many other things, now practically useless for the purposes which

## FARMING

they were originally intended to serve, and consequently are being used for entirely different purposes, left to decay, or being torn down.

The comparatively large and unique spring-house which I found at Cetronia, a small hamlet that might be considered a suburb of Allen-

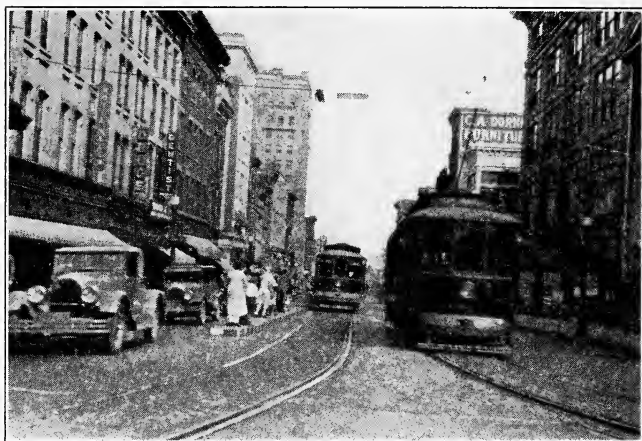


*Promenaders at the Allentown Fair*

town, is about eighteen by twenty feet in size, two stories high, with whitewashed stone walls and an estimated age of one hundred and fifty years. The upper story was once used as a schoolroom, and possibly at one time as a smokehouse. It is now used for storage purposes. Flat stones were laid for the ground floor. A lean-to on the back side was at some time built of boards, has a large fireplace in it,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

and is now, with an electric washer in it, used for family laundry purposes. The spring is in the small board lean-to just outside the door, and the springhouse is still being used, in a small way, for something like a springhouse or cellar.



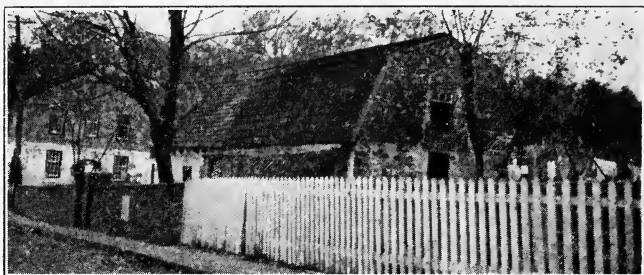
*A Street Scene in Allentown*

Near that building, I found, on the hillside, in the same yard, both an old outdoor ground cellar, and, pretty well hidden by shrubbery, an old smokehouse which had aforetime been used for curing meats. The cellar, about ten by eighteen feet in size, with vaulted roof about seven feet high through the center, is built with stone walls and floor, the floor about

## FARMING

three steps down from the threshold at the pictured entrance. The interior of the cellar is cemented over. The smokehouse is about eight feet square and has a small fireplace in it.

The subject of superstition among the farmers might well have brief consideration in this chapter but is reserved for the next.



*The William Penn House Built in 1683, at Upland*

## V. COMPARISONS

VALLEY FORGE, or rather that portion of it which the state maintains as Valley Forge Park, is about twenty-four miles northwest of Philadelphia and in Chester County, just across the boundary line (represented by the Schuylkill River) from Montgomery County, which latter county was settled largely by the Germans, whereas the Valley Forge area, as well as much elsewhere of Chester County, was colonized mainly by the Friends, or Quakers. It may be somewhat extraneous here, but, after a visit to Valley Forge Park, it seemed to me that it might be well to insert a few views, especially of certain old buildings in the park, for comparison with the views of old Pennsylvania-German buildings, in order that some of the similarities and differences in the two classes of buildings might be noted.

## COMPARISONS

For the same reason, a view of what is known as "The William Penn House," in Upland, in the southeastern corner of the state, is also shown. That house was built in 1683 and is clearly of a different type from any of the old Pennsylvania-German buildings. For the past



*Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge*

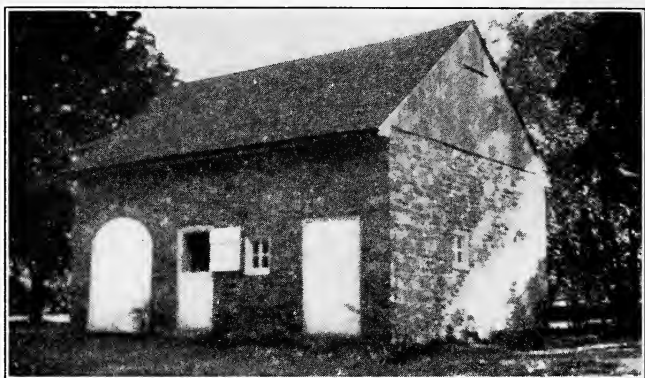
twenty-five years it has been occupied by a colored family.

Of the historic buildings in the Valley Forge Park, by far the most interesting is the stone well-built and pleasantly situated one-time residence which is renowned as having been "Washington's Headquarters" for approximately six months from late in December, 1777. It is said to have been erected in 1757. It was owned by Isaac Potts, who is described

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

as having been a young minister of the Society of Friends.

Not far from the headquarters' building there is a small stone building that was built about 1757-58, which was used as Washington's coach house and stable while he had his headquarters at Valley Forge. It is now used



*Washington's Coach House and Stable at Valley Forge*

as a museum, as is also the headquarters' building.

Near the headquarters' building there is also an interesting old underground "cave," or cellar, of which only the entrance and the moundlike top can be seen. Not only is the cave no longer used, but the double doors to it are kept closed and padlocked. See view of

## COMPARISONS

it, as well as views of "Washington's Headquarters" and coach house.

At some distance away, on the top of a hill, a log hut has been built as a reproduction of a hut typical of the log huts occupied by the soldiers of the continental army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. A quarter-



*Cave, or Cellar, near Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge*

ing rear view was selected in order to show the chimney, which otherwise was hidden by the hut and the foliage. The door, made of common boards just its length and not cut through horizontally to make upper and lower half-doors, is located centrally at the front end of the hut. The cracks between the logs of the army huts were chinked with clay. The roofs were thatched with boughs, or straw, and tent cloth. Wooden bunks were used for beds.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

Still farther back over the hill from "Washington's Headquarters" there stands a small stone building, described by a tablet as "Old Camp School House 1705-1907." It was built in 1705 by Letitia Penn, a daughter of William Penn, and was repaired in 1907. It is the oldest schoolhouse now extant in the state. Dur-



*Reproduction of Typical Log Hut of Soldiers at Valley Forge*

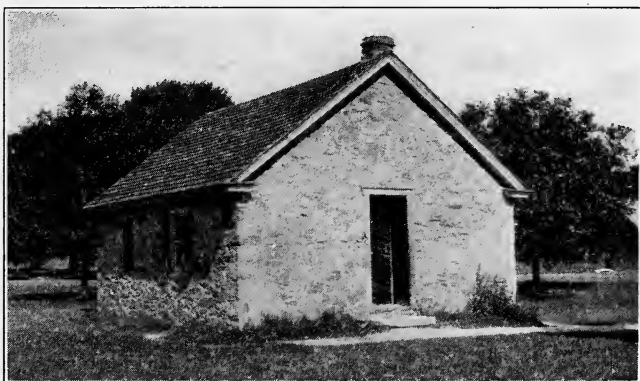
ing the winter of 1777-78 it was used as a hospital for the army.

A modern reinforced concrete building of massive, castellated appearance, and of striking contrast to other buildings, as indicated by the miniature view of it, has been erected at Doylestown, in Bucks County, for a museum, or, as it is called, "Historical Building." It contains much of interest relative to

## COMPARISONS

the Pennsylvania Germans, their farm implements, household equipment or furnishings, dress, and other things.

The snapshot view of four young ladies, which was taken at the railway station in Lititz, Lancaster County, shows headdresses of the "plain people" combined with some-



*"Old Camp School House," Built in 1705, at Valley Forge*

thing akin to present-day styles in other respects, indicative of a trend of the times with the young people.

Superstition is made one of the subjects of this chapter owing to the fact that, near the close of 1928, readers of the public press were startled by the sensational announcement that a farmer in the vicinity of York, Pennsylvania,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

had been killed by a witch doctor and two youths, while the three were attempting to cut a lock of hair from the head of the farmer so that they might bury the hair eight feet underground in order to break a spell of "hexing" or bewitchment which they asserted had been cast by the farmer upon the father of one of the boys. Then some of the newspapers instituted hasty investigations and, based on them, enlarged upon the superstitions and belief in witchcraft and powwowing (the curing of diseases by incantations and "strange" procedures or magic) of what they declared were a large proportion of the inhabitants of counties in which many Pennsylvania Germans live.

Among the things to which attention was specifically called were the facts that some farmers chalked on their barns and cowsheds strange crosses, in order to free their horses and cattle from the evil effects of witchcraft, while some parents went about muttering strange conjurations when their children were sick, in order to cure them of their ailments. Particular stress was laid on a variety of peculiar magical formulas or practices which the powwows or witch doctors said would cure different diseases.

It is noticeable, however, that functional

## COMPARISONS

derangements, and not organic diseases, were the ones commonly referred to—such diseases as might at times be relieved by therapeutic suggestion or various “faith cures”; and it would be interesting if the results obtained in the aggregate by the latter could be compared



*Valley Forge Creek Just below Washington's Headquarters*

with those derived from following the formulas of the powwows or witch doctors, or the use of incantations and weird practices handed down by tradition as remedies. That the diseases are ascribed to bewitchment is unimportant in its effect on the possible results of faith in the means adopted to perform a cure being effective. Nor does it matter that some of the afflicted may be infants, or that powwowing is

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

sometimes resorted to, or barns and cowsheds marked with strange crosses, in order either to protect or free horses and cattle from what are believed to be evil spells cast by witchcraft, for if the person holding the belief thinks that the desired result has been obtained, that may be



*Reinforced-Concrete "Historical Building,"  
at Doylestown, Bucks County*

enough; or, while he is resorting to the powwow, nature may effect a cure or bring relief.

In considering the weight to be given the charge or implication that the Pennsylvania Germans are exceptionally superstitious, it may be well to take into account, in comparison, that a very large proportion of the people everywhere are superstitious with reference to one thing or another—at least secretly and half-heartedly—as with regard to the number thirteen, beginning an important undertaking on Friday, holding that bad luck follows the spilling of salt or the breaking of a mirror, or

## COMPARISONS

from a black cat's crossing one's path in front of him, whereas an old horseshoe or a rabbit's foot brings good luck, while the fulfilment of one's wish may be assured by the right breaking of a wishbone. Furthermore, who patronize the fortune-tellers and the mediums of countless numbers in the cities, as well as the medical impostors and quack doctors of every description to be found almost everywhere? Why, a considerable number of people of nearly all classes, high and low, rich and poor, educated and uneducated. Even business men of high rank and financial leaders, such as shrewd operators in Wall Street, have been known to consult the clairvoyants.



*Religious Headdresses Combined with  
Modern Styles at Lititz, Lancaster County*

That some superstition is found among the Pennsylvania Germans is not surprising in view of all this. That it has its peculiarities is due to the conditions that existed in the fatherland of its origin and to what have been the conditions in the localities here in which it has

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

been perpetuated, like many of the imported customs and different beliefs of the people. As far as the Pennsylvania-German farmers, or some of them, may believe that certain seed should, or should not, be planted at certain times of the moon, or believe other things of like import, it does not, even if superstitious, appear to do any particular harm. On the other hand, experience seems to prove that, on the whole, the rules followed are reasonably good ones to observe; for, if they were otherwise (that is, led to disastrous results), they would certainly have been, or would now be, abandoned.

It may be regrettable that any superstition at all should exist among the Pennsylvania Germans, but, judging from its prevalence elsewhere, it is not remarkable, and time, which has already done much to improve the situation, will continue its beneficent effect, just as it has done, and is doing, elsewhere.

A brief, personal account of a genealogical quest in Pennsylvania-German Land follows these "comparisons."



*Perkiomen Creek at Schwenkville, Montgomery County*

## VI. MATTHIAS HEIM OF FREEBURG

**B**EING of Pennsylvania-German descent, but having been born in the Middle West and having lived there most of the time,<sup>1</sup> I desired to know more than the very little that I did about my forbears and the Pennsylvania Germans in general, and set out a few years ago to see what I could learn about them. The chief results were published in book form.<sup>2</sup> What I was able to learn about

<sup>1</sup> Jesse Leonard Rosenberger, *Through Three Centuries; Colver and Rosenberger Lives and Times 1620-1922* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1922), pp. 295 ff.

<sup>2</sup> Jesse Leonard Rosenberger, *The Pennsylvania Germans; A Sketch of Their History and Life, of the Mennonites, and of Side Lights from the Rosenberger Family* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1923). The volume is one of x+173 pages, plus 16 full pages of half-tone illustrations from photographs.

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

my maternal ancestry was contained in a page and a half,<sup>1</sup> and some of that about my maternal great-grandfather, Matthias Heim, was not as clear and satisfactory as I wished it to be. In consequence, in 1928 I resumed my quest for information about him and, in addition, for whatever I could gather about Pennsylvania-German Land and its people.

To direct my first search for information regarding my maternal ancestry, I knew practically only that my mother, whose maiden name had been Esther Heim, was a daughter of Leonard Heim, was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1833, and, on June 2, 1850, being then a resident of Columbiana County, Ohio, married my father, of Stark County, and probably of Alliance, Ohio. I searched records in Cumberland County and in a number of other counties in Pennsylvania which I thought most likely to give me some clue to Leonard Heim, but found none. Most of the meager information which I finally obtained concerning him, and as to his father (my maternal great-grandfather) being Matthias Heim, I got in Columbiana County, Ohio; but as to just where the latter had lived I was left uninformed.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 154-55.

## MATTHIAS HEIM OF FREEBURG

Matthias Heim was not only a farmer, who had a good farm, but he was also for some time a schoolmaster, who taught in German. It is questionable whether he ever learned the English language. His education would tend to suggest that he had probably gone to school in



*Pastoral Scene on What Was Matthias Heim's Farm at  
Freeburg, Snyder County*

Germany; but, if so, at what place there, or at what age he came to this country, I have found nothing to show. He was a member of the Lutheran congregation which worshiped in St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church in Freeburg, in what is now Snyder County, Pennsylvania, which county was carved out of Union County by an act approved March 2,

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

1855, while Union County had been formed from a part of Northumberland County, March 22, 1813. His farm on which he lived was about half a mile west of the church.

The record of a deed dated April 18, 1836, which I found in *Deed Book 70*, on page 103, at Sunbury, Northumberland County, recites that Mathias Heim, of Freeburg, Washington township, County of Union, yeoman, and Barbara, his wife, for a consideration of \$1,000, conveyed to John Kieffer, of Upper Mahanoy Township, two hundred and four acres and six perches surveyed or intended to be surveyed by virtue of two warrants, one dated October 3, 1792, for one hundred thirty-four acres, the other dated October 26, 1792, for seventy acres. Both warrants, it was stated, had been "granted to a certain George Heim," and "the said George Heim by his two instruments of writing each bearing date on the 8th day of March, A.D. 1794, . . . did grant and confirm the same unto the said Mathias Heim."

This may be taken to show both that Matthias Heim was a resident of Freeburg, Pennsylvania, on March 8, 1794, or, more likely, had been for an indefinite period prior to that date, and that, if he was not born in Pennsylvania, but came from Germany, he

## MATTHIAS HEIM OF FREEBURG

must have come before he was twenty-five years of age, that being his age in 1794. This deed also suggests a possible relationship between George Heim and him—even that George Heim may have been his father.

On going to Freeburg, I found, in the cemetery of St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church—just inside the gate of the cemetery, across the road from, and opposite to, the front door of the church—a tombstone which states (in German) in effect:

“Here rests Matthaüs Heim. He died the 12th of June, 1838, aged 69 years and two months.”

By the side of that tombstone another records, in English, that “Barbara, Wife of Matthias Heim, Born Nov. 6, 1769, Died Nov. 1850, Aged about 80 Yrs.”

Supplementary, as it were, to those mor-



*St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed  
Church in Freeburg*

## IN PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN LAND

tuary records I found at Lewisburg, Union County, on page one of *Will Book B 1838-61*, the record of a will declared to have been made by "Mathias Hime," of Washington Township, Union County, Pennsylvania (Snyder County not having yet been created out of part of Union County), but the will was signed, in German, Matthias Heim." The will was dated July 14, 1837, or a little more than a year prior to the testator's death, and recites that he, "being in good health of body and of sound and disposing mind and memory (praised be God for the same)" and being desirous of settling his worldly affairs whilst he had strength and capacity so to do, he made and published this will. "And first and principally," he went on to say, "I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, hoping for free pardon and remission of my sin, and to enjoy everlasting happiness in the heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, my saviour."

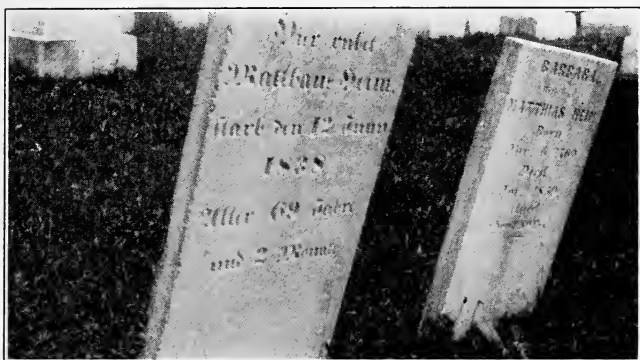
Other provisions of the will, which may be of some historic interest, were:

"It is my will and I do order that my beloved wife Barbara shall have all my personal property, of which she may sell as much thereof as she may think proper, and the monies arising therefrom shall be her own.

## MATTHIAS HEIM OF FREEBURG

“I do order that my said wife shall be in possession of the house I now live in, together with barn and other buildings during her life.

“It is my will and I do order that all my lands which I may own at my decease shall be leased either on share or for rent, as may be



*Where Matthias Heim and His Wife, Barbara, Were Laid at Rest,  
in St. Peter's Cemetery at Freeburg*

thought most beneficial by my hereinafter named executor, during the life of my said wife, and all the rent or share shall be paid over to her at the expiration of every year.

“I also order and direct that my said wife shall have a right to take as much wood from my woodland as she may want for her use during her life.

“It is my will and I do order that my said

## IN PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN LAND

executor shall divide all my money which may be in the house or due me . . . . among my fourteen children, share and share alike . . . . to wit: George, Magdalene, Elizabeth, John, Jonathan, Philip, Catharine, Benjamin, Lydia, Daniel, Samuel, Leonhart [Leonard], Sarah, and Joseph. And . . . . after the death of my said wife Barbara, . . . . all the monies arising from the sale of my personal . . . . and . . . . real property shall be equally divided among my said fourteen children, share and share alike.”

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